



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS WITH HIGH WILDLIFE VALUE

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The following is a partial list of native hardwood (deciduous) trees and shrubs that can be maintained where found or planted (some may be transplanted) on western Washington forestland where creating and maintaining wildlife habitats are ownership objectives. Some such as Pacific madrone and Blue elderberry have very poor survivorship when planted from bare rootstock. These species do best when they are potted (balled root) or started from seed. Most of these species produce fruits (soft mast) or hard seed or nuts (hard mast) that is relished by many bird and mammal species.

- **Cascara** (*Rhamnus purshiana*) an excellent and easily planted (or transplanted) small tree that is quick growing and somewhat shade tolerant.
- **Hawthorn** (*Craetagus spp*) goes by numerous names with many varieties (some containing thorns Very hardy and fast growing producing fruits at an early age.
- **Serviceberry** (*Amelancher spp*) A shrub with edible fruits. Many varieties. Some have thorns and all are heavily used by wildlife for food, shelter and cover.
- **Bitter cherry** (*Prunus emarginata*) On good sites develops into a tree. Good cavity tree.
- **Blue elderberry** (*Sambucus glauca*) Excellent berry producer (edible). Somewhat shade tolerant. A long-lived shrub relished by many species of wildlife, but hard to establish in Western Washington.
- **Red elderberry** (*Sambucus racemosa*) Very prolific and easily established. Not as long-lived as blue elder.
- **Red-osier dogwood** (*Cornus stolonifera*) An excellent mesic (moist) site and riparian species that is easily established from cuttings and very prolific. Somewhat shade tolerant.
- **Pacific dogwood** (*Cornus nuttali*) Small tree that is shade tolerant. Susceptible to introduced disease.

- **Pacific crab apple** (*Pyrus fusca*) Grows to small tree height. Excellent wildlife fruits. Grows very well on wet soils in full or partial sun.
- **Pacific madrone** (*Arbutus menziessii*) A broad-leafed evergreen tree growing on gravelly well-drained soils. Very hard to establish. Excellent mast producer and cavity tree.
- **Mountain Ash** (*Sorbus sitchensis*) Grows to small tree height with very persistent (lasts into winter) hard red berries used by many bird species during the long winters.
- **Beaked hazel** (*Corylus cornuta*) Dense growing shrub with small nut on female tree consumed by a large number of birds and mammals. Good nesting and escape cover for a variety of bird species
- **Vine maple** (*Acer circinatum*) Grows individually or in small clumps. Attractive shrub (can get quite large) with a small seed. Excellent food, shelter and cover.
- **Bigleaf maple** (*Acer macrophyllum*) A shade tolerant large tree that produces not only food in the form of seeds and leaves primarily, but develops excellent shelter and cover including hollow stem and branches that are used by a variety of forest wildlife species.
- **Oregon white (Garry) oak** (*Quercus garryana*) A large tree with excellent hard mast (acorn) production in good years. Forms excellent shelter and cover structure. However, this species is very slow growing and very shade intolerant. Very long-lived .
- **Red flowering currant** (*Ribes sanguineum*) A small early blooming shrub. Flowers favored by hummingbirds in early spring and fruits by a variety of species. Do not plant adjacent to western white pine.
- **Willow** (*Salix spp*) Several species that grow in a variety of habitats. The leaves and soft branches are consumed by many species. Black-tailed deer often select willows as ‘rub’ trees.

There are many more shrubs and small trees native to the area that can be planted. These include (among others) the huckleberry group (especially red and evergreen huck), native roses and ground covers such as Oregon grape and Salal that can be planted or at least maintained where found. Other large deciduous trees such as cottonwood planted or maintained on damp sites may develop wonderful wildlife habitat characteristics. These species are usually very quick to establish on disturbed sites so may already be present on your land. A quick inventory will determine what species are already present.